Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 228349
ORIGIN ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 /034 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:BMILLAN:JG
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:JCHAAHR
ARA:GLISTER (DRAFT)
----------038074 082157Z /23
O 082137Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PN

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT
-
REF: A) STATE 215083, B) PANAMA 6341

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF B:

-- IAHRC IS WORKING ON A REPORT, BASED ON THEIR VISIT TO PANAMA LATE LAST YEAR, BUT REPORT NOT YET COMPLETE AND OUR CONTACTS COULD MAKE NO ESTIMATE EXACTLY WHEN IT WILL BE.

-- LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE QUOTE REPORTED IN "MATUTINO", BUT HAVE PROMISED TO QUERY LONDON BY CABLE. WILL ADVISE: MEANWHILE, WE THINK "MATUTINO" QUOTE CAN BE USED IF QUALIFIED AS NOT YET CONFIRMED BY A.I.

-- WE WERE UNABLE TO SPECIFICALLY CONFIRM WITH FREEDOM HOUSE THAT THEIR LOW RATING FOR PANAMA WAS OWING TO FORMER PRACTICE OF EXILING DISSIDENTS, BUT OUR RECOLLECTION
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COINCIDES WITH EMBASSY'S.FREEDOM HOUSE IN GENERAL FOCUSES MORE NARROWLY ON POLITICAL RIGHTS, RATHER THAN HUMAN

RIGHTS AND RESPECT FOR THE PERSON.

-- CONTACT AT IAHRC CONFIRMED THAT THE JUNE 16 INCIDENT HAD BEEN "BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION", BUT WAS NOT WILLING

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TO CONFIRM EVEN THAT THE COMMISSION HAD GIVEN THE INCI-
DENT STATUS AS A CASE UNDER INVESTIGATION, CITING IAHRC
REGULATIONS WHICH FORBID ANY DISCUSSION OF SUCH MATTERS
(EXCEPT WITH THE COMPLAINANT AND THE GOVT INVOLVED)
UNTIL THE COMMISSION IS READY TO MAKE A COMPLETE PUBLIC
REPORT. FYI - THERE SEEMS NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT AN
INVESTIGATION IS IN FACT UNDER WAY. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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